SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING A DIAGNOSTIC ANALYSIS OF PHYSIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present disclosure relates generally to diagnostic techniques and more specifically to a system and method for performing a diagnostic analysis of physiological information.

BACKGROUND

It is common place for individuals to schedule an appointment with a doctor to request a general checkup or to diagnose an ailment. A physician can perform diagnostics analysis of physiological information of a patient such as blood pressure, temperature, or a blood sample to determine the health of the patient and to diagnose ailments.

Machines such as blood pressure sensors, temperature sensors, heart rate sensors, glucose sensors, and so on, can be used outside of a doctor's office. Some individuals can share measurements from these machines with an on-line system as an alternative means of self diagnoses.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1-4 depict illustrative embodiments of communication systems that provide media services;

FIG. 5 depicts an illustrative embodiment of a portal interacting with at least one among the communication systems of FIGS. 1-4;

FIG. 6 depicts an illustrative embodiment of a communication device utilized in the communication systems of FIGS. 1-4;

FIG. 7 depicts an illustrative embodiment of a method operating in portions of the communication systems of FIGS. 1-4;

FIG. 8 depicts an illustrative embodiment of a system operating according to the method of FIG. 7; and

FIG. 9 is a diagrammatic representation of a machine in the form of a computer system within which a set of instructions, when executed, may cause the machine to perform any one or more of the methodologies discussed herein.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

One embodiment of the present disclosure can entail an avatar engine having a controller to retrieve a user profile of a user, present the user an avatar having characteristics that correlate to the user profile, detect one or more responses of the user during a communication exchange between the user and the avatar, identify from the one or more responses a need to determine a medical status of the user, establish communications with a medical diagnostic system, receive physiological information associated with the user, submit the physiological information to the medical diagnostic system, receive from the medical diagnostic system a diagnostic analysis of the physiological information, and present the diagnostic analysis to at least one of the user and a medical agent of the user, wherein the user is presented the diagnostic analysis by way of the avatar.

Another embodiment of the present disclosure can entail presenting a user an avatar having characteristics that correlate to a profile of the user, identifying from a communication exchange between the user and the avatar a need to physiologically analyze the user, receiving physiological informa-

tion associated with the user, submitting the physiological information to a medical system, receiving from the medical system a diagnostic analysis of the physiological information, and presenting the diagnostic analysis by way of the avatar.

Yet another embodiment of the present disclosure can entail a computer-readable storage medium having computer instructions for conducting a communication exchange between a user and an avatar, submitting to a medical system physiological information associated with the user, receiving from the medical system a diagnostic analysis of the physiological information, and presenting the diagnostic analysis by way of the avatar.

Another embodiment of the present disclosure can delivering an interactive avatar service that performs physiological diagnostic services.

Yet another embodiment of the present disclosure can entail a system having a controller to provide diagnostic analysis of physiological information supplied by an interactive avatar system.

FIG. 1 depicts an illustrative embodiment of a first communication system 100 for delivering media content. The communication system 100 can represent an Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) broadcast media system. In a typical IPTV infrastructure, there is a super head-end office (SHO) with at least one super headend office server (SHS) which receives national media programs from satellite and/or media servers from service providers of multimedia broadcast channels. In the present context, media programs can represent audio content, moving image content such as videos, still image content, and/or combinations thereof. The SHS server forwards IP packets associated with the media content to video head-end servers (VHS) via a network of aggregation points such as video head-end offices (VHO) according to a common multicast communication method.

The VHS then distributes multimedia broadcast programs via an access network to commercial and/or residential buildings 102 housing a gateway 104 (such as a residential gateway or RG). The access network can represent a bank of digital subscriber line access multiplexers (DSLAMs) located in a central office or a service area interface that provide broadband services over optical links or copper twisted pairs to buildings 102. The gateway 104 distributes broadcast signals to media processors 106 such as Set-Top Boxes (STBs) which in turn present broadcast selections to media devices 108 such as computers or television sets managed in some instances by a media controller 107 (such as an infrared or RF remote control). Unicast traffic can also be exchanged between the media processors 106 and subsystems of the IPTV media system for services such as video-on-demand (VoD). It will be appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art that the media devices 108 and/or portable communication devices 116 shown in FIG. 1 can be an integral part of the media processor 106 and can be communicatively coupled to the gateway 104. In this particular embodiment, an integral device such as described can receive, respond, process and present multicast or unicast media content.

The IPTV media system can be coupled to one or more computing devices 130 a portion of which can operate as a web server for providing portal services over an Internet Service Provider (ISP) network 132 to fixed line media devices 108 or portable communication devices 116 by way of a wireless access point 117 providing Wireless Fidelity or WiFi services, or cellular communication services (such as GSM, CDMA, UMTS, WiMAX, etc.).

Another distinct portion of the one or more computing devices 130 can be used as an avatar engine (herein referred to